

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 097986 TOSEC 040111  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:TMARTIN

APPROVED BY S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----050953 172349Z /73

O 172307Z APR 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 097986 TOSEC 040111

FOL RPT SALISBURY 0024 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USICA WASHDC,  
LONDON, DAR ES SALAAM, PRETORIA, GABORONE, MAPUTO, LUSAKA,  
NAIROBI, LILONGWE, CAPE TOWN & USUN NEW YORK DTD 17 APR 78

QUOTE: UNCLAS USDEL SALISBURY 0024

DEPARTMENT PASS USDEL SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI IMMEDIATE

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR MR POWELL IMMEDIATE

FOR S/PRS AND PA:

USICA FOR VOA, AF

CAPTE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652/ N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

FOLLOWING TALKS IN SALISBURY TODAY WITH THE RHODESIAN TRANSITIONAL  
GOVERNMENT, BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND SECRETARY VANCE MET  
THE PRESS. AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE, MR. IAN SMITH, CHAIRMAN OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, ALSO APPEARED TO MAKE A STATEMENT AND ANSWER  
QUESTIONS; THE TWO TRANSCRIPTS FOLLOW:

DR. OWEN: WELL, AS YOU KNOW WE'VE HAD SOME HOURS OF  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 097986 TOSEC 040111

DETAILED DISCUSSION, BOTH THIS MORNING AND THIS AFTERNOON AND THE  
ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE. THE EXPRESSION OF VIEWS  
HAS BEEN CLEAR ON BOTH SIDES AND, AS YOU KNOW, WE PUT TO THE  
MEETING THAT WE THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE A ROUND-TABLE TALKS AT  
WHICH ALL THE PARTIES COULD COME, WITHOUT PRECONDITION, TO TRY AND  
SEE IF WE COULD BUILD ON THE AREAS OF AGREEMENT THAT ALREADY EXIST,  
TO WIDEN THE AREAS OF AGREEMENT, AND HOPEFULLY TO WORK TOWARDS AN

AGREED CEASE-FIRE, AND FAIR AND FREE ELECTIONS  
TO BE CONDUCTED THIS  
YEAR AND A GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO ZIMBABWE RECOGNIZED BY THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND THE WHOLE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WE PUT THAT  
PROPOSITION  
TO THEM. I THINK THEY UNDERSTAND THE REASONS WHY WE  
THINK IT'S IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND ALL THE  
CITIZENS WHO LIVE IN ZIMBABWE THAT SUCH TALKS SHOULD TAKE PLACE.  
I THINK THEY UNDERSTAND OUR FEARS THAT COULD COME IF THIS OPPORTUNITY  
OF CONTINUING THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS TO BE MISSED. WE ARE UNDER NO  
ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY THAT WOULD BE FACED. THEY HAVE  
AGREED TO TAKE THIS AWAY AND GIVE SERIOUS, DETAILED AND MATURE  
THOUGHT TO THE PROPOSITION THAT WE PUT TO THEM, THAT'S WHAT WE  
ASKED  
THEM TO DO. WE DIDN'T COME HERE ASKING THEM TO MAKE A SNAP DECISION,  
WE RECOGNIZE THAT THEY WILL WANT TO CONSULT AMONGST THEMSELVES, AND  
THEY HAVE AGREED TO DO SO.

SECRETARY VANCE: THANK YOU, I HAVE VERY LITTLE TO ADD TO THAT  
EXCEPT TO SAY THAT I HAVE FOUND THE DISCUSSIONS TODAY TO HAVE BEEN  
VERY HELPFUL. CAN YOU HEAR ME? I SAID I HAVE VERY LITTLE TO ADD  
TO WHAT DAVID  
OWEN HAS ALREADY SAID, EXCEPT THAT I DID WANT TO SAY  
THAT I HAVE FOUND THE DISCUSSIONS TODAY TO BE VERY HELPFUL, AND I  
AM GLAD THAT WE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND VIEWS  
IN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE. AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK TO GIVE ALL THE  
HELP WE CAN IN TRYING TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 097986 TOSEC 040111

IN RHODESIA.

Q. DR OWEN, MAY I ASK YOU CONSIDERING THAT THE DATE OF  
INDEPENDENCE IS NOW ONLY ABOUT 8 MONTHS AWAY, HAVE YOU ISSUED  
ANY KIND OF TIME LIMIT TO THE DECISION YOU ARE HOPING THEY  
WILL MAKE?

A. DR. OWEN: NO, WE THOUGHT...THE QUESTION WAS HAVE WE  
ISSUED ANY TIME LIMIT TO THE HOLDING OF THE TALKS THAT WE PROPOSE.  
THE ANSWER IS NO, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WILL....  
PA STHEY WILL

WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, THAT MAYBE THAT BETWEEN WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE  
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN ORDER TO TRY AND NARROW THE AREAS SO THAT  
PEOPLE GO TO MAY TALKS WITH AGREEMENTS AS FAR AS WE CAN ON THE  
WAY THE TALKS WILL BE HELD, WHERE THEY'LL BE HELD, AND THE TIME  
AND THE PLACE, SO THAT WE'VE NOT PUT THEM UNDER ANY TIGHT THRESHOLD.  
THEY'RE GOING TO GO AHEAD AND CARRY ON THEIR PROPOSALS BUT WE  
BELIEVE THAT NO PARTY SHOULD GIVE UP THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

Q. MR. VANCE, IN DAR ES SALAAM, SIR, MR. MUGABE SAID THAT HE  
WANTED TO SEE A ONE-PARTY MARXIST STATE IN ZIMBABWE. DO YOU HAVE  
ANY COMMENT?

A. SEC. VANCE: YES, I DO HAVE A COMMENT ABOUT THAT. THE  
QUESTION WAS: IT WAS REPORTED THAT IN DAR ES SALAAM, MR. MUGABE  
SAID HE WANTED

TO SEE A ONE-PARTY MARXIST STATE. HE DID NOT SAY THAT TO ME. IF HE HAD SAID THAT I WOULD HAVE REJECTED IT COMPLETELY.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, SINCE NO QUICK AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO CALL A RHODESIAN CONFERENCE, I WONDER AS YOU WIND UP YOUR MISSION TO AFRICA WHAT YOU SEE DEVELOPING AHEAD?

A. SECRETARY VANCE: WELL, LET ME SAY I THINK IT HAS BEEN A USEFUL TRIP, I THINK PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE DURING THE TRIP, THE ROAD AHEAD IS A VERY DIFFICULT ONE AND AS DAVID HAS SAID, NONE OF US UNDERESTIMATE THOSE DIFFICULTIES BUT I AM VERY GLAD WE CAME AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AT IT.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, AFTER THE LAGOS MEETING IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE PLAN WAS TO HAVE THE DAR MEETING AND THEN ON THE 25TH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 097986 TOSEC 040111

AND 26TH OF APRIL THE ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. WOULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE LAGOS THAT YOU HAVE NOT ARRIVED AT THAT 25TH, 25TH APRIL DATE?

A. SECRETARY VANCE: THE RHODESIANS HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT THEY WISHED TO TAKE TIME TO REFLECT SERIOUSLY UPON OUR PROPOSALS. I THINK THAT THAT IS A FAIR AND PROPER SUGGESTION ON THEIR PART AND, THEREFORE, I THINK WE MUST PROCEED AND WILL PROCEED ALONG THOSE LINES.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AS YOU HAVE NOW BEEN IN TOUCH WITH IT? INDEED, THIS IS THE FIRST VISIT BY A SECRETARY OF STATE TO RHODESIA. WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION OF RHODESIA?

A. SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK IT'S A LOVELY COUNTRY.

Q. DO YOU THINK THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS FUNCTIONING?

A. SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK IT'S A LOVELY COUNTRY.

Q. DO YOU THINK THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS FUNCTIONING?

A. SECRETARY VANCE: I WAS VERY GLAD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THEM. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I HAVE, AND AS I SAID I FOUND MY TALKS VERY USEFUL TODAY.

THANK  
YOU VERY MUCH

IAN SMITH: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, SPEAKING IN MY CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT WE ARE ALL GRATEFUL TO THE AMERICAN AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS FOR THE TIME AND TROUBLE WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN TO VISIT US TODAY TO SEE IF THEY CAN HELP US IN SOLVING THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT OUR COUNTRY. WE HAD CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS. I BELIEVE WE GAVE THEM SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND, OF COURSE, IN RETURN THEY GAVE US SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT. WE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE AND GIVE CONSIDERATION TO WHAT MESSAGES THEY BROUGHT TO US, AND IN KEEPING WITH THE ONE MAN, BASIC CONDITION WHICH WE HAVE STATED ALL ALONG, THAT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GO BACK ON THE AGREEMENT WHICH WE SIGNED ON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 097986 TOSEC 040111

THE THIRD OF LAST MONTH. WITH THAT PROVISIO, WE WILL DO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY SEE IF WE CAN MEET THE REQUESTS WHICH THEY HAVE MADE. AFTER THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WE WILL THEN BE ISSUING A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER: CAN WE JUST ASK YOU, EVEN AT THIS LATE STATE OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT PLAN, WOULD YOU STILL BE WILLING TO ADAPT IT TO ACCOMMODATE ANY ONE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S WISHES?

A. MR. SMITH: YOU'RE ASKING ME TO NEGOTIATE IN PUBLIC?

Q. I KNOW BETTER.

A. MR. SMITH: YOU SHOULD KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE BEFORE STARTING.

Q. MR. SMITH, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE UNTIL THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS PREPARED TO ISSUE THE STATEMENT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT ON YOUR POSITION?

A. MR. SMITH: WELL, I THINK IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ANTICIPATE THE(INAUDIBLE). OBVIOUSLY, WE WILL GIVE MATURE AND GOOD CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BY GENTLEMEN SUCH AS THOSE WHO HAVE COME HERE TODAY. IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE OF US TO GIVE THIS CANT CONSIDERATION. IN REPLY, WE WILL ACT RESPONSIBLY.

Q. MR. SMITH, DID THEY ASK YOU TO ATTEND AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE?

A. MR. SMITH: YES, THAT WAS ONE OF THEIR PROPOSALS.

Q. MR. SMITH, WERE THEY ABLE TO CONVINCE YOU OF ANY BENEFITS OF SUCH A CONFERENCE?

A. MR. SMITH: I DOUBT IT. SCHRAGE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE097986  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** O:TMARTIN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780164-1009  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780448/aaaabosk.tel  
**Line Count:** 207  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4e4688ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2941350  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECVISIT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING TALKS IN SALISBURY TODAY WITH THE RHODESIAN TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND SEC  
**TAGS:** OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4e4688ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014